

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5304
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2001
UTILIZATION OF RIVER WATER
MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the efforts made by the Government to properly utilise the water of rivers in the country; and
- (b) the achievements made so far in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) & (b) Water resources development including construction of storages for utilization of water is taken up by the State Government as per their own priorities. Upto 1995, a live storage capacity of 177 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) has been created by construction of large dams in the country. Besides, projects to add an additional storage capacity of about 75 BCM are under construction and 132 BCM are under planning. The replenishable ground water is of the order of 432 BCM, out of which about 154 BCM has been developed for use. With the help of these storages and other minor irrigation schemes an irrigation potential of 90 Million hectare (Mha) has been created upto the end of the Eighth Plan against the ultimate irrigation potential of 139.9 Mha in the country.

Government of India is also promoting rainwater harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof-top rain water harvesting under the sector reform project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme under the Ministry of Rural Development, for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the state Government and other implementing agencies. Central Ground Water Board has also taken up pilot studies for artificial ground water recharge. Assistance is also extended to State Governments under Command Area Development Programme for bridging the gap between potential created and utilized. For early completion of ongoing irrigation projects Government of India is extending assistance to state Governments under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme.

As a long term measure, National Water Development Agency established in 1982 under Ministry of Water Resources have formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages interlinking between various peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins. The agency has completed pre-feasibility studies of all the 17 water transfer links under the Peninsular rivers development component and 14 water transfer links under the Himalayan rivers development component. Feasibility studies of 5 water transfer link have also been completed.